



YAOUNDE-CAMEROON:

ATTEMPTED ARREST of journalist Jean Bruno TAGNE: Presenter of the program "AUTANT LE DIRE" on the private television channel NAJA TV ; Boney Phillippe, journalist at the private television Vison4 and the academic Dr. Chuo Walters

APPEL URGENT N°006/25/05/2023:

Douala-Yaoundé-Kampala: Thursday, May 24, 2023 : The Réseau des Défenseurs des Droits Humains en Afrique Centrale (REDHAC), AFRICANDEFENDERS and Nouveaux Droits de l'Homme (NDH) are deeply concerned by the situation facing journalists in Cameroon, particularly the attacks on press freedom, information and access to information, not to mention the attempted arrests and other reprisals to which they are subjected.

On May 16, 2023, journalist Jean Bruno TAGNE received summons N°001 SUMMONS N°001 CA/BMG from M. BIALO Dieudonné; Lieutenant-Colonel and Head of the Service Central des Recherches Judiciaires à la Gendarmerie Nationale in Yaoundé at the Secrétariat d'État à la Défense (SED) to respond to a preliminary inquiry opened at the said service for "defamation in complicity and others" for May 22 at 10am with 2 other co-accused namely Boney Philippe journalist at private television Vision4 and Dr. Chuo Walters, University.

Although we do not yet know the reasons for this summons. Everything suggests that this summons relates to the case of journalist Martinez Zogo, kidnapped on January 17, 2023, cruelly murdered and found on January 23, 2023 in the Ebogo III district.



Les faits :

On April 20, 2023, the private television channel Naja Tv published audio recordings of the late Orthodox priest and radio host Jean Jacques Ola Bébé, who was evidently murdered in the aftermath of these recordings, in which he spoke of his journalistic efforts to find out the truth about the murder of Martinez Zogo. This private television station deemed these revelations to be new information worthy of public interest. All the more so as the journalist declared with certainty that these audios had been transmitted to the government commissioner in charge of the Martinez Zogo case, and that his wife had certified them before publication. These audios were later broadcast as such, without any personal comment from the TV station or the journalist, who merely explained the circumstances in which they had obtained them.

On May 22, 2023, journalist Jean Bruno TAGNE was expected at the Secretariat of State for Defense at 10 a.m. Having received the summons very late, he went there on Monday, May 29, 2023 at 1 p.m. accompanied by his lawyer.

The Human Rights Defenders Network in Central African (REDHAC), AFRICANDEFENDERS and New Human Rights (NDH)



- Support the journalist Jean Bruno TAGNE and the two others mentioned above;
- Call on the gendarmerie to abandon these summonses altogether;
- Urge the government to protect journalists;

Concerned by the resurgence of :

- attacks on press freedom, access to information and the dissemination of information, including the protection of sources;
- legal and judicial harassment, intimidation, threats of arrest, death threats, assassinations and other reprisals against journalists,

Deeply concerned by the attempt

- Concerned by the attempt to muzzle journalists, media and television, especially private ones, who contribute to the consolidation of the rule of law,

The Human Rights Defenders Network in Central African (REDHAC), AFRICANDEFENDERS and New Human Rights (NDH):

- Denounce in the strongest terms the legal and judicial harassment, assassinations, forced disappearances, arbitrary and illegal arrest attempts and reprisals against journalists in Cameroon and Central Africa in general;
- Remind the government that journalists are obliged to protect their sources in accordance with freely signed and ratified regional and international human rights instruments, in particular SECTION XI ON THE PROTECTION OF SOURCES AND OTHER JOURNALISTIC DOCUMENTS OF THE AFRICAN UNION DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN AFRICA;

Finally, The Human Rights Defenders Network in Central African (REDHAC), AFRICANDEFENDERS and New Human Rights (NDH):

Recommend that the State of Cameroon scrupulously respect :

- The Declaration of Principles on THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN AFRICA OF THE AFRICAN UNION ADOPTED AT THE 32nd ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLE'S RIGHTS ON 17-23 OCTOBER 2002 IN BANJUL - GAMBIA.
- THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS (RATIFIED BY CAMEROON ON JUNE 27, 198

- **FOR ANY URGENT ACTION :**

Useful addresses :



- His Excellency Paul Biya: President of the Republic, Presidency of the Republic, Palace of Unity, 1000 Yaoundé, Cameroon, tel: +237 22 23 40 25; Fax +237 222 08 70 email: cellcom@prc.cm;
- Chief Joseph Dion Nguete: Prime Minister and Head of Government, Primature du Cameroun, Fax: +237 22 23 57 35 and e-mail: spm@spm.gov.cm;
- Mr. Laurent Eso: Minister of State, Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals, Ministry of Justice, 1000 Yaoundé' Cameroon, Fax: + 237 223 00 05;
- Mr. Joseph Beti Assomo: Minister Delegate at the Presidency of the Republic in charge of Defense B.P1000 Yaoundé' Cameroon, Fax +237 223 59 71;
- Mr. Paul Atanga Nji: Minister of Territorial Administration, Fax: + 237 222 37 35;
- Mr. James Mouangue Kobila: President of the Cameroon National Human Rights Commission (CNDHC), Tel: +237 222 61 17, Fax: +237 222 60 82, E-mail: cndhl@iccnet.cm;
- Mr. Nouhoum Sangaré: Regional Representative and Director of the United Nations Center for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa (CNUDHD-AC) Tel: (+237) 222 50 58 10);
- Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cameroon to the United Nations Office at Geneva, rue du Nant 6, 1207 Geneva, Switzerland, Fax: + 41 22 736 21 65, Email: mission.cameroun@bluewin.ch.

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Phone : Office (+237)233 42 64 04

MOB : (+237) 691 23 89 96/ 697 61 81 95

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Twitter : @RedhacRedhac

Website: www.redhac.info